Fire-proof Bank, San Francisco.—We find in the San Francisco *Herald* a long account of Messrs. Adams's fire-proof banking house, just erected. According to this, —in the centre of the massive walls, and pervading them throughout their whole extent, is a vacant space four inches wide communicating with the air through sieve-like apertures in the cellar and the parapet. The floor of the basement and of the small yard in the rear is a solid coat of cement, several inches thick. Beneath the surface of the yard is a reservoir, containing several thousand gallons of water, from which a pipe leads under ground into the basement, where a force pump is attached. A hose leads from thence up through all the floors to the roof, if necessary. By this arrangement access to the water may be secured inside without exposure to the heat, and every floor may be flooded in a few moments, if necessary. In a back corner of the room is the vault, and here all the resources of art have been exhausted to make assurance doubly sure. This vault rests upon a solid foundation of brick-work, extending below to the floor of the cellar. The floor is a mosaic pavement formed of diamond-shaped stones, alternately white and slate-coloured. On the roof, the point usually most exposed in case of fire, the utmost care has been bestowed to render it proof against the attacks of the most fierce heat. A parapet wall two feet thick and six feet high extends around and above. The roof is first covered with zinc, soldered so as to be air-tight: upon that rests a bed of cement one inch thick, and upon that again is a pavement of fire-proof tiles laid in cement and air-tight. The doors and windows are furnished at top and bottom with thick plates of cast-iron, one yard wide, and imbedded in the masonry. The sides are double frames of iron, two feet apart, with brickwork intervening. The doors and shutters are double, with the same interval of two feet between. They are constructed of boiler iron an eighth of an inch thick, and braced in every direction with iron bars an inch thick.

New Market at Worcester.—The design of Mr. Armstrong, of London, having been chosen out of seven sent in to the Markets Committee, and estimates by Mr. Warburton, of London, for the general works, also sent in through Mr. Armstrong, offering to do the work for 1,150*l.* in place of for 1,997*l.* the amount of the only estimate (that of Mr. Joseph Wood, of Worcester) in response to the first call,—the *Worcester Chronicle* complains on various grounds of these decisions by the committee. Though virtually No. 6 that constituted the chosen design, he says, it was really an amended design afterwards given in that did so; and the architect, he continues, inserted a suspicious clause in his specifications as to the iron being supplied by a certain London manufacturer. The total estimate for the building is stated to be now 2,020*l.* though the resolution of the council stated that it was not to exceed 1,800*l.* The chosen design is described by our authority as a partial imitation of the Hyde-park Building.

Motive Power and Steamers.—Mr. Hay, the chemical assistant at Portsmouth Dockyard, has exhibited the model of a galvanic new motive power, which it is *supposed* will supersede the steam-power now used as an auxiliary for propelling line-of-battle ships and frigates. The machine or engine makes about 45 revolutions per minute, sea water being the principal element of the invention. The *Westminster Review* foretells a monster steamer in time to come:—"An iron ocean steamer, of ten or more thousand tons burthen, that shall still the heave of the waves afloat, as Plymouth Breakwater does on shore, and make the salt water the home of the Celt, without the heavings of his diaphragm in sea-sickness; built of iron scantlings that shall bear a proportion to its size; rolled and fashioned by the dock side from the iron ingots, by tools of giants,—one sole heat sufficing to give its permanent form in the structure; built in sufficient compartments, that shall defy leakage, though riddled as a colander; strong as Atlas to crush the rocks on which it may strike; swift as the salt sea shark, with artist fins of metal work; laughing to scorn, like an ocean monarch, the irate cachalot that sometimes sinks the whaler in his fury; mocking at fire, like the iron horse of the rail; coated with rust-proof enamel; furnished with apparatus to change the salt wave into the mountain water; provided with iron cellars, to arrest the decomposition of fresh food for all time; furnished with hermetic gardens, with machine music, with books, paintings, and sculpture—with warmth and coolness at will—with armed strength to bid all ocean rovers defiance—an ocean palace, moving over the face of the waters whithersoever its ruler listeth."

Electro-Telegraphic.—A Mr. Reynolds, of New York, proposes to construct the telegraphic communication across the Atlantic at a cost of 3,000,000 dollars. He thinks the plan practicable and safe, and sets forth that "the distance between Cape Canso, above Halifax, on the American coast, and the nearest point in Ireland, near Galway, is but about 1,600 miles along the banks of Newfoundland, which are known to extend within 160 miles of the coast of Ireland, at an average depth of 800 feet. A line of this length, consisting of four wires perfectly insulated in a cord of gutta percha of the size proposed, would last (he calculates, without his host we fear, however) for hundreds of years, as the insulating substance is indestructible in water, and has a strength almost equal to iron. Such a line would weigh about 10,000 tons, and would require about 1,500 tons of iron anchors. The cost of everything, when in complete working order, would be less than 3,000,000 dollars."

——In the United States the revenues received by the telegraphs are very great, and this is not remarkable when it is considered what sums the towns pay towards them. Thus to one company only, Cincinnati paid in the last year 18,970 dollars; Louisville, 22,000 dollars; and Pittsburg, 18,000 dollars; while towns little bigger than our market towns contribute their two or three thousand dollars. Where telegraphs in the United States do not pay, it is from excessive competition; but the yearly income of the telegraph lines working between Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington is as much as 60,000*l.*

Glass Facing for Houses.—With reference to a paragraph in our number for 9th ult., headed "London with a clean face," we have received a communication from Mr. J. R. Dickson, enclosing extracts from a paper on his "pressed glass mosaics," read at the Society of Arts, on the 7th of May, 1845. Mr. Dickson states that he obtained a patent for these, which is now of seven years standing. In his paper the use of glass, not only for mosaics but in exterior architectural decoration of walls generally, is spoken of and recommended; but his patent appears to relate to glass mosaics particularly, prepared by means of a process of moulding by pressure, while the glass or other vitrified matter is in a fused state. Several patents are referred to by our correspondent as having been taken out with the same purpose in view, but he conceives that he has forestalled all others from using glass in the manner alluded to in our recent paragraph, that is, as a facing to buildings. We some time ago took notice of a mode of imitating marbles and other stones, for exteriors of buildings, by covering compositions with clear glass,—a mode included amongst other patented uses of glass in house decoration, invented by Miss Wallace, and devoted, we believe, in its ultimate profits, to the benefit of her poor countrymen, as a branch of art in which they might find remunerative employment.

The Art-Journal Catalogue of the Great Exhibition.—The fifth part of this really extraordinary work has been issued with the September number of the *Art-Journal*, and will be completed in the next. It will be published as a perfect volume before that, so that the public may have the advantage of it as long as possible before the close of the Exhibition. The premium of 100 guineas offered by the proprietors for an essay on the best mode of rendering the Exhibition practically useful has been awarded to Mr. Ralph Wornum.

The Haymarket Theatre.—The new piece at this theatre, "The Queen of a Day," has some pretty music by Mr. Fitzwilliam, well sung by Miss Pyne, but is sadly provided with dialogue. Abroad the composers wisely obtain the best available talent for the plot and language which they have to illustrate, and find their account in it. "Grimshaw, Bradshaw, and Bagshaw" is a genuine Haymarket farce, full of fun from beginning to end. Buckstone is its mainstay, and with the richest humour, without a shadow of coarseness or vulgarity, keeps the house in a roar. He expresses a wish that some genius would contrive shutters to put themselves up in the morning, and take themselves down at night. Perhaps some of our inventive friends will oblige him. At the Haymarket there is always a safe evening's amusement, and the public know it.

Beds and Bucks Archæological Societies.—The union meeting of these societies was held at Leighton Buzzard on Thursday in week before last, and was largely attended. The church was visited, under the guidance of the vicar; and the market cross and other local antiquities were examined, as were also a variety of rubbings and copies of brasses, and other objects, antiquities, &c., exhibited in the town-hall. At the general meeting, Col. Gilpin was called to the chair, after which the Rev. J. Stevenson read a paper on the antiquities of Leighton Buzzard, the Rev. J. Taddy one on Northill Church, the Rev. J. R. Pretyman one by Mr. J. K. Fowler on Aylesbury Church, Mr. G. Hurst another on Bedford Castle, the Rev. H. J. Rose one on Stone Crosses, and the Rev. W. Airy one on Rubble or Rubbish. An interesting and peculiar "sign of the time" was then manifested in an address by Mr. J. D. Bassett, a Quaker, who addressed the meeting on the present condition of the Leighton Cross, and read letters from a Roman Catholic architect as to its restoration, which, he said, would cost 300*l.*, and he pledged himself to contribute towards it as much as its proprietor did. Lord Charles Russell and other gentlemen addressed the meeting.

Fine for leaving Work.—At the Handsworth sessions, on Saturday week, a puddler was charged with leaving his work, getting drunk, and assaulting a watchman who had "knocked off" the two under hands, after two hours' delay, in order to prevent further waste of iron and fuel. The magistrates consulted as to sending the case to the sessions, but ultimately, as defendant regretted his folly, fined him 40*s.* and costs, or in default, committed him for twenty-one days, with hard labour, to Stafford.

The Exhibition of Sketches and Drawings by English artists, commenced last year in the gallery of the old Society of Painters in Water Colours, Pall-mall East, has been opened for the second season. It consists of 288 very interesting works, and we will next week point out a few of the principal.

Wide Estimating.—The following tenders were delivered for additions to a house in Sackville-street. Mr. Wm. Harris, architect.

Palmer and Son (Bartholomew-close)	£1,390 0 0
Edwards (Westbourne-terrace)	1,135 0 0
Wilson (Eaton-square)	884 10 0

R.

Oblige by inserting the following tenders for work at the Crown, Sutton, Surrey, under the superintendence of Mr. Edwin Chart.

Gaskin (Croydon)	£247. 0 0
Brown (Sutton)	222 0 0
Russell (Mitcham)	178 0 0
Booker (Sutton)	115 0 0

T. R.

Pray insert the following somewhat startling tenders for work in the King's-road, Chelsea, under Mr. G. Low.

Roose	£160 0 0
Colice	148 0 0
Peck	137 10 0
Perry	116 0 0
Newton	112 0 0
Cox	54 0 0

F. S. C.

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